

## Through the Looking Glass by John Everett Daquino

### WONDERMARE

Apexart

291 Church Street , New York, NY 10013

July 8, 2009 - August 8, 2009



For the duration of *Wondermare* at Apex Art, visitors can come between the hours of 3 and 5 P.M. on Tuesdays and Thursdays and be part of this psychedelic film, which is loosely based on the characters in *Alice in Wonderland*. One can choose from a number of costumes and stand in front of a green screen answering a question randomly selected from a deck of cards. The new footage is added to the already existing clips, which loop on multiple television screens and projectors that fill the adjacent gallery.



For the two artists (Susan McIntosh and Albert Wilking) who organized the project, *Wondermare* is a form of release, a break from the prescribed roles that we as adults have to carry out in order to function in normal society. The characters in the film are all exaggerated personas, "Alice" as the naive child/woman and the "Mad Hatter" that revels in all sorts of destructive behavior, to name a few.

However, where this Dionysian adventure falls apart is ironically in its neatness. The installation is very sterile, equipped with all new technology. The gallery is not dark enough; the projected images become washed-out. In

addition, the sound is barely audible. What *Wondermare* becomes, like a lot of contemporary video, is a concept without a thoroughly considered delivery. If presented differently, then perhaps *Wondermare* could be an engulfing, disorientating experience that transported us into the realms of madness; but as it is currently presented, it is business as usual.

--John Everett Daquino

(Images: Video installation stills from *Wondermare*. Courtesy Apexart.)